



EON Aboriginal
Foundation

September 2024

INSIGHTS



We are now EON Aboriginal Foundation

It is with much pride that we can announce that with a majority Aboriginal Board, EON is now an Aboriginal-led organisation.

This has been a major objective of our 2020-2030 Strategic Plan, and we are so pleased to have achieved this goal so early in the decade. The transition has been formalised through the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Organisations (ORIC).

Our next step is to refresh our Strategic Plan to ensure all objectives are aligned with being an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation. A sincere thank you to our very engaged Board members who have guided us through this exciting process.

[Meet our Board](#)



EON Aboriginal Foundation turns the tide on diabetes!

The recent release of figures showing a lack of progress in reaching Closing the Gap targets is devastating. We know that preventative health care programs, run by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, such as our Thriving Communities Program, improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

EON Aboriginal Foundation recently commissioned Innovation Unit to measure the impact of our Thriving Communities Program, specifically in relation to reducing preventable and chronic disease, such as type 2 diabetes. We're delighted with the results, which show that in remote communities where our program has been delivered for 5 years or more, the prevalence of type 2 diabetes has reduced.

These kinds of reports are rare and longitudinal community-based health data is hard to obtain and difficult to measure. Whilst the numbers in absolute terms are small, they're huge in relative terms. The results show a significant reduction and quite an amazing turn-around, contributing to Closing the Gap.

[Read the report](#)



Shout-out to The Smith Family

We would like to acknowledge the support we are receiving through The Smith Family in funding our program in the remote NT communities of Kalkaringi and Yarralin.

The Smith Family Katherine Region is a facilitating partner for the federally funded Communities for Children program. Through this initiative EON has received multiple-year funding to partner with Kalkaringi and Yarralin. We are currently in Year 3 of our 5-year program and its been an amazing journey to date. In addition to great engagement with the schools, we have had the opportunity to work with CDP, Child and Parent Associations, and local Women's Groups. The two communities are about a

6-hour drive from Katherine and are regularly subject to wet season flooding. Early this year the communities were isolated for extended periods, and the lack of food security received national attention. We are grateful to The Smith Family for its support of our program, which contributes to providing a local supply of fresh garden produce.

Where are Kalkaringi and Yarralin?

“

It's good to grow fruit and vegetables because sometimes there's no fruit and veggies at the shop.

Student, NT



In the media...

A thank you to journalist Jessica Moroney for highlighting the amazing progress happening in

Rangeway in her article in the Geraldton

Guardian last month:

Rangeway Primary School students are developing healthy eating habits at school, growing and harvesting their own fruit and vegetables through an Indigenous education program.

The EON Foundation Thriving Communities Program was introduced late last year, with students designing and constructing garden beds and a bush tucker patch. Eight months later, Year 7 students are showing off their zucchini and cauliflower, grown from seed. Ryder Hadley, 10, said he liked to use his favourite vegetable, carrots, when he cooked at home.

“Sometimes we make carrot cakes and my mum’s favourite lasagne,” he said. “Eating healthy helps you get strong and gets you nutrition.” Jasmine Ryan, 10, said: “I make the food called French veggies. It’s a pasta-ry mix with all these veggies like capsicum, beetroot and heaps of other veggies.”

EON project manager Sally Dighton said the gardening program was a practical way to teach children healthy habits and bring fresh produce to remote communities.

“We have got so much engagement, the kids are excited, they spend their lunch times and their recesses down here in our garden,” she said.

Rangeway Primary School principal Karin van Dongen said the school was thrilled to partner with EON, whose program had provided students with hands-on learning opportunities.

“The students are so engaged in the program and love spending time in the garden and the kitchen,” she said. “It warms my heart to see how protective the students are about the produce in the garden. The pride on their faces is priceless on the days they go home with a meal they cooked themselves with our own harvest.”



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